

S.N.: 10/607,180
Art Unit: 2617

REMARKS

Telephone Interview(s) with Examiner Holliday

Commencing October 16, 2006, initiated by Examiner Holliday, several telephone calls and email communications have been exchanged between Patent Examiner Jaime Holliday and Applicant's Representative Walter Malinowski. It has been agreed that the fourth to last word "within" in the independent claims, as presented in the unentered response after final of September 2006, is to be replaced by - - with - -. A claim set was emailed to Examiner Holliday on October 19, 2006, in which a new dependent claim was presented to take the place, in number, of cancelled claim 25. As dependent claim 27 is to be newly added, Applicant's Representative was advised by Examiner Holliday that she could not submit an Examiner's Amendment and that Applicant should submit a response with the new claim.

Claims 1-24, 26, and 27 are currently pending. Claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 11, and 17 have been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 25. Claim 27 has been added to reflect the subject matter suggested by the Patent Office in the faxed in proposed Examiner's Amendment of October 16, 2006 and is supported by page 6, lines 17-24, of the specification as filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. It is also respectfully submitted that given the content of the communications between Applicant's Representative and the Examiner since October 16, 2006, that the addition of claim 27 does not raise new issues and does not require further search and/or consideration.

As all claims recite the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that all claims 1-24 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

The number of claims presented remains twenty six with claim 25 having been cancelled and dependent claim 27 having been added.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Menard, Oxley, Timbel, Nee, Luman, Hunter, Tognazzini, and/or Balachandran, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-24, 26, and 27 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-24, 26, and 27 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

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Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

10/24/2006
Date

Clarie F. Mian
Name of Person Making Deposit